



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Animal Welfare Symposium aims to raise awareness on animal welfare issues

Singapore, 17 March 2011 – From domestic and wildlife to livestock, students aged 11 to 20 years will have the opportunity to learn and propagate animal welfare issues in Singapore at an upcoming Animal Welfare Symposium (AWSS) on 19th March. Organised by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and Ngee Ann Polytechnic's Debating Club, the symposium aims to educate and increase their understanding of welfare and care issues affecting animals used for human purposes, including food production and companionship. This Symposium was made possible with the kind sponsorship of Singapore Press Holdings.

The first Animal Welfare Symposium for students was organised by the SPCA in 2009 and the event is a key part of the organisation's public education initiatives. Sarah Tan, a student from Beatty Secondary School shared that she "did not know animals suffered so much" prior to attending the symposium. AWSS 2011 aims to allow students like Sarah, the opportunity to learn more about the importance of animal welfare and the role society can play.

Another key topic that will be discussed at the symposium is that of puppy mills in Singapore. In a recent joint undercover survey of pet shops and farms conducted by the SPCA and other animal welfare organisations, it was revealed that most pet shops and farms were not forthcoming in offering information on dog care or details about the puppies' parents. Other programme highlights includes "Our Community Cats" and "Farm Animals".

“Students are capable of making very wise and animal-friendly decisions. We need to empower them with the knowledge and the symposium offers just that - a platform for students to think critically about welfare issues and providing them with an opportunity to share their thoughts with each other and receive constructive feedback.” said Jaipal Gill, Assistant Manager (Operations) at the SPCA who will also be speaking at the symposium. Other speakers will include Louis Ng, Executive Director of Animal Concerns Research & Education Society (ACRES), Amy Corrigan, Director of Education (ACRES), Dr George Jacobs, President of Vegetarian Society, Singapore and Fareena Omar, President of Cat Welfare Society.

While the symposium can offer various opportunities for students with a passion in animal welfare, it also allows them to meet others who are like-minded. The symposium will be held at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Lecture Theatre 26 on the 19 March 2011.

Note to Editor: Please refer to Annex A for the Animal Welfare Symposium for Students poster.

-The End-

About Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is the first registered animal welfare organisation in Singapore. The two main objectives of the SPCA are to promote kindness and to prevent cruelty to animals. Relying on kind donations from the public, the Society provides various animal welfare services to the community including a 24-hour emergency service, a lost-and-found service, and sterilisation voucher programme for strays as well as running an animal shelter. For more information, visit <http://www.sPCA.org.sg>

About Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Ngee Ann Polytechnic is one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning, with about 16,000 full-time students, about 4,800 part-time students and a vibrant alumni community of more than 100,000. The polytechnic offers 49 full-time diplomas in diverse areas such as business, engineering, sciences, infocomm technology, media and humanities, and a wide range of part-time programmes.

The polytechnic aims to provide relevant, balanced and value-added curricula by creating an effective teaching and learning environment. As the first polytechnic in Singapore to introduce interdisciplinary studies to students, Ngee Ann pioneered a broad-based and multi-disciplinary approach to learning.

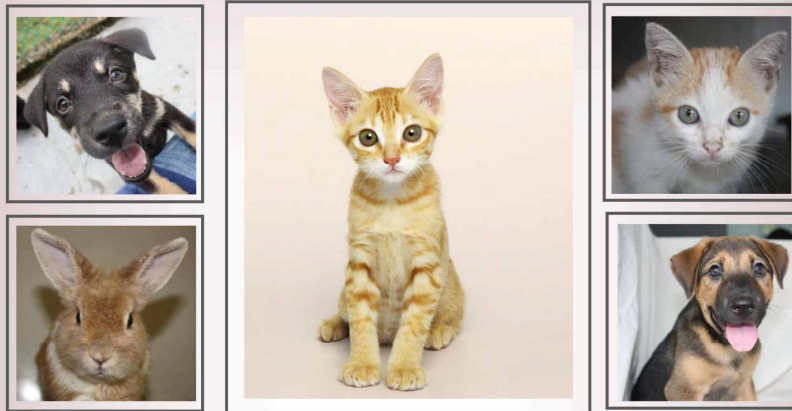
It was the first polytechnic in Singapore to launch Mobile e-Learning (MeL) in 1999, integrating a notebook ownership scheme, a wireless campus network and an e-learning platform. The entire polytechnic is now fully enabled for students to connect to the wireless network. About 95% of all the teaching modules are now available online.

Ngee Ann was also the first to partner an overseas educational institution to offer a degree under the Ministry of Education's Polytechnic-Foreign Specialised Institution collaboration framework. Another key thrust for the polytechnic is forging partnerships with industry and research partners to enrich students' learning journey and keep them up-to-date with market practices. For more information, please visit www.np.edu.sg

ANIMAL WELFARE SYMPOSIUM FOR STUDENTS

19 MARCH 2011 (SATURDAY)
8.30AM – 3PM

Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Clementi Road (Lecture Theatre 26)



THE SYMPOSIUM IS DESIGNED TO INTRODUCE STUDENTS BETWEEN
THE AGES OF 11 TO 20 TO THE WORLD OF ANIMAL WELFARE
AND ITS VARIOUS ISSUES.

TOPICS

We will be inviting experts from various fields in the local scene to share with us.

- **Tormented 'Food' – Exotic Meats & Live Seafood**
(Amy Corrigan, Director of Education, ACRES)
- **Farm Animals – Spare A Thought For Them**
(Dr. George Jacobs, President, VSS)
- **The Wild Side of Life – Keeping Wildlife as Pets**
(Louis Ng, Executive Director, ACRES)
- **Our Community Cats – Our Neighbours**
(Fareena Omar, President, CWS)
- **Puppy Mills – Puppies Aren't Products**
(Jaipal Gill, Assistant Manager (Operations), SPCA)

Food and drinks will be provided.

All participants will receive a booklet with detailed information about each topic and activities that they can do to aid in spreading the message further.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

To register, please fill up the enclosed form or email educationpr@sPCA.org.sg.
Seats are limited and allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

Registration closes on 14 March.

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